



417 Walnut Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1902
717 255-3252 / 800 225-7224
FAX 717 255-3298
<http://www.pachamber.org>

November 16, 2004

Dear Member of the General Assembly:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry and its over 10,000 members representing more than half of the private work force in Pennsylvania, we would like to urge a postponement of any vote mandating an alternative energy standard or renewable portfolio standard as currently embodied in House Bill 2250 and Senate Bill 1030.

Clearly, abundant and affordable energy is critical for Pennsylvania's business community and its citizens and the Commonwealth must take reasonable steps to assure adequate supplies at affordable prices in the future. Our belief is that renewable energy plays a critical part in that long term picture. Unfortunately, we are concerned that the mandates contained in the current language could lead to higher energy costs for both producers and consumers.

In the past, the legislature has relied on a stakeholder process to develop landmark legislation on electric and natural gas deregulation. The Department of Environmental Protection has used this process as well when implementing control measures as part of the Commonwealth's Clean Air Act mandates. This stakeholder process brings together all affected parties to reach a consensus on critical issues. We strongly encourage this or a similar type approach on alternative energy standards or renewable portfolio standards when the legislature returns in 2005, rather than passing legislation which is likely to lead to higher energy costs and a less competitive business environment.

Please call me at 717-720-5469 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Gene Barr
Vice President
Political and Regulatory Affairs